

DEBRIS REMOVAL AT ALA WAI BOAT HARBOR

On Saturday, April 15, work began on the removal of debris from the trash trap at the Makai end of the Ala Wai Canal.

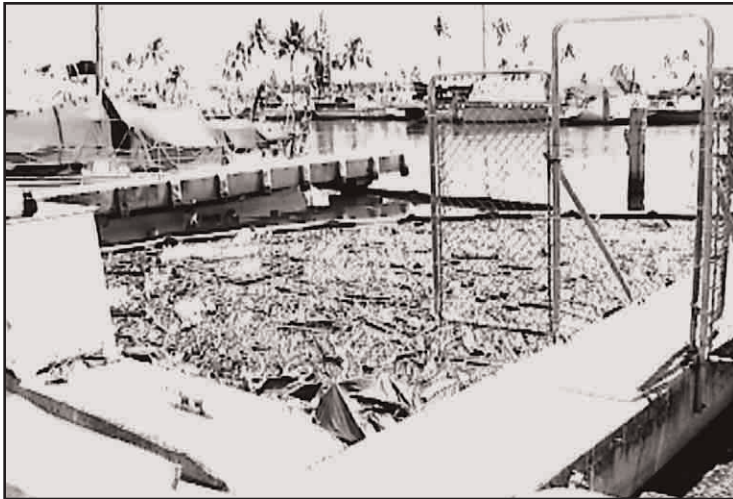
Following a plan approved by the Department of Health, the clean up involved coralling the flotsam, disinfecting and removing it from the Canal and transporting it to the Waimanalo Gulch landfill.

Representative Stevens observed the operation conducted by contractors, Pacific Environmental Corporation (PENCO).

Funding for the clean up was initially provided by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Boating Special Fund. Reimbursement however, will be sought from the City and/or Hawaii's General Fund.

On April 17th, the Surfrider Foundation sponsored a roundtable discussion addressing several technologies and strategies to mitigate and prevent future spills.

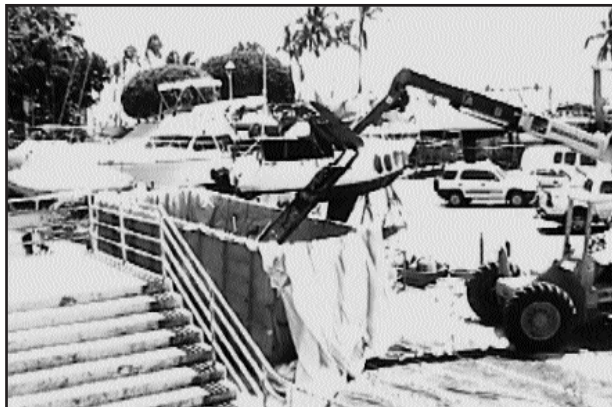
Look for our future reports on this vital effort.



Flotsam is corralled by PENCO at Front Row ...



then scooped from corral ...



...and hauled to dumpster for removal.



Peter Young, Director of DLNR with Rep. Stevens

April 2006 ALA MOANA/KAKA'AKO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO.11



Representative Anne V. Stevens

On Prince Kuhio Day, I decided to go for a walk in the park. This was not a pleasure stroll or an exercise workout. I walked through Ala Moana Park on the evening of the City and County of Honolulu's sweep of the homeless. My purpose was to observe the police operation and meet some of the service providers and the people moving out of the park.

From 9:00-10:00 PM, I walked along the sidewalk bordering Ala Moana Blvd and met with several homeless people who had moved out of the park prior to the 10:00 PM deadline.

At 10:00 PM, I entered the park to watch the police go about the difficult business of rousting the holdouts. There certainly was not a heavy police presence that evening. I saw only one police cruiser and two officers on ATVs covering the park's interior.

After about 20 minutes of walking along the beach side, one officer approached me and very politely advised that the park was closed and it was time to leave. I introduced myself and asked how the operation was going, were the homeless people cooperating and did he have to make any arrests.

The officer said everyone had been cooperative so far, but there were a few holdouts. As of about 10:45 they had made no arrests. The two officers went about their duty as I walked out of the park.

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I did have the opportunity to watch them as they approached a couple of people camped in the bushes near the McCoy Pavilion. The officers treated the people humanely and with dignity.

I learned from speaking to these homeless folk that truly many reasons cause people to become and remain homeless.

Solving the problem will not be easy nor will one solution work for all. Some homeless could become homeowners or renters if they just had the finances to pay security deposits and the first and last month's rent. Others could have taken advantage of Veteran's programs. Still others need the "safety net" of society to take them off the streets or out of the park. No one answer would suit the homeless I met that night.

Three proposals among others have merit in my opinion. The first is to allow the establishment of mobile home parks on state land in Hawaii. Mobile homes are economical and fairly easy to assemble with the skills of masons to pour the cement pads and carpenters to attach the (usually two) sides. The cost of these homes is far less than original construction.

Secondly, for the US military veterans, the policy prohibiting families or couples from residing in the Kalaeloa veteran's shelter should be immediately lifted. This will allow any former service member to reside in the shelter along with dependents.

Thirdly, agencies should provide one-way plane tickets to homeless persons wishing to relocate to lower cost of living areas on the mainland. Several of the people I spoke to in Ala Moana Park regretted coming to Hawaii, having left mainland cities where their resources covered their housing.

Hawaii's churches, social service agencies and state government programs provide many benefits for the growing homeless population.

I believe it is now time to implement other creative solutions like the ones noted above.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT

In support of the upcoming AARP pedestrian crosswalk assessment program outlined below, Representative Stevens will also be forming a team to test select Waikiki intersections and to alert drivers to the need to stop when pedestrians are in crosswalks. This will be done with volunteer flag wavers. If you wish to join our team, please call our office at:

586-8520

Join AARP Hawaii for their
"NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE"

May 11, 2006



**IS IT SAFE TO CROSS
THE STREET IN YOUR
COMMUNITY?**

Hawaii is one of the worst states in the country to be a pedestrian.

Help AARP find out why. Be part of a one day project to assess potentially dangerous intersections across the state and educate the public about pedestrian safety issues.

Here's how it will work:

- Sign up as an individual and be assigned to one of our teams. Or form your own team.
- We'll provide you with an assessment survey and instructions and ask you to spend one hour at your chosen or assigned intersection.
- We'll promote your assessment location and time to the media in the hope of reaching a wider public audience through coverage of the activity.
- You'll send your completed forms to us to pass on to policy makers.
- Volunteers will be given an AARP National Day of Service T-shirt.

CALL 545-6003

or email jboland@aarp.org
to get involved

GOVERNOR LINGLE RELEASES \$1.65 MILLION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ALA WAI SMALL BOAT HARBOR

At the Ala Wai Harbor Users' meeting on April 12, Representative Stevens announced the release of funds for the replacement of "F" dock.

This project was a priority of Rep. Stevens who had urged the Administration to fund this critical need. Below is the text of the Governor's press release.

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Governor Linda Lingle has released \$1,650,000 to replace Dock "F" at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

Dock "F" will be replaced with a new floating dock system, including electrical and water utilities, an aluminum security gate and locker boxes.

The "F" dock (approximately 70 boat slips) has been closed since September 2003 due to safety concerns. In addition to the boaters displaced by the dock closure, there are about 700 boaters on the wait list for a slip at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

"The replacement of Dock "F" will provide more boaters with safe access to the harbor as well as much-needed revenues to support the Boating and Recreation's operations," said Governor Lingle.

The total project cost is \$1,650,000 and is expected to be completed by May, 2008.



*Rep. Stevens at the "F" Dock location*